

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MARY K. PODESTA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary K. Podesta, and those who loved her especially her sons John and Tony.

Known affectionately as "Mama Podesta" to friends, neighbors, and many of us here in Congress, Mary was a fixture in the Washington political scene for more than two decades.

Mary was born in Chicago to Greek immigrant parents. Upon marrying John Podesta Sr., she devoted herself to raising her two sons, John and Tony, and instilling in them a love of country and a commitment to public service which they both demonstrate today.

With the death of her husband nearly 30 years ago, she moved to Washington to be close to John and Tony. Her sons had a history of hosting prominent fundraisers and socials, but it was Mary who turned them into truly family affairs.

Raised Greek, and married to an Italian, Mary was a tremendous cook. Her meatball recipe was as delicious as it was secret. When I visited, she always made sure she had an order for me "to go."

Her astute political advice and encouragement provided even more nourishment than the food she prepared. And though she counted a President, and numerous congressional leaders among her close friends, it was her close relationships with her own family of which she was most proud.

As we pay tribute to Mary, we take comfort in our fond memories of her. I extend my deepest condolences to the many who loved Mary, especially her sons John and Tony, her sister Evelyn, and her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people are praying for them and mourning their loss at this sad time.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK R. BOHN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark R. Bohn for his dedication to his colleges and for his 32 years of federal service to his country.

Mark began his federal career back in 1974, where he served in the U.S. Air Force for 3 years. In 1978, he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. He worked in various facilities, including Cleveland Hopkins Air Traffic Control Tower, where he ably served for 15 years.

Mark has, throughout the years, shown a strong commitment to and care for his col-

leagues. He was a founding and charter member of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and has been elected the union facility representative at three different facilities. Additionally, Mark has offered his service on national, regional, and local committees for both the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Throughout his career, Mark has received numerous performance awards, letters of commendation, and incentive awards for his great work and effort.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mark R. Bohn, whose 32 years of federal service for this country, as well as tremendous commitment to and care for his colleagues, is a shining example for all of us.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS WEAVER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis Weaver, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 249 and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Travis has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Travis has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Travis's dedication to his school work at West Platte High School has been excellent. Travis has also contributed significantly to the community, through his planning and organization of a project for the Platte City Parks and Recreation department, which included the addition of a brand new picnic and playground area.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis Weaver for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN P. MASTIN

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great pride and delight I rise today to honor a highly talented and dedicated airman who has entertained thousands with his skill and continues to serve his country with expertise, commitment, and leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Mastin is a supremely skilled and decorated command pilot who has spent thousands of hours in the air, many of them twisting, turning and barrel rolling as a United States Air Force Thunderbird. Displaying absolute command over his aircraft, Colonel Mastin has flown several Thunderbird air shows as the Lead Solo, delighting countless onlookers with his precise maneuvers and daring routines. His peerless ability and perfect unison with his fellow Thunderbirds combine for one powerful, awe-inspiring show in the sky.

But Colonel Mastin is much more than a showman. Born in my district in Dansville, NY, Colonel Mastin has led a life of service and deep commitment to his country. After graduating from Dansville Central School in 1981, Colonel Mastin enlisted in the Air Force. He would eventually head off to the West Coast after being assigned to the 92nd Munitions Maintenance Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington State. From there, Colonel Mastin attended Washington State University, entering the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and graduating in 1988 as a commissioned officer. He received his wings a year later and, after more pilot training, left to fly over the skies of Texas at Laughlin Air Force Base as an Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner.

After honing and developing his aircraft skills further, Colonel Mastin became an F-15C Flight Commander at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, flying 46 combat missions in Operations Provide Comfort and Southern Watch. Then following an assignment at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, Colonel Mastin began his run as a Thunderbird, flying in the 2000 and 2001 air show seasons. As a Thunderbird stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, he flew as the Opposing Solo and then the Lead Solo, showcasing his supreme and expanding aircraft talents.

Moving on from his Thunderbird tour, Colonel Mastin became Director of Operations of the 557th Flying Squadron at the United States Air Force Academy in 2002. In July 2004, Colonel Mastin then assumed duties as Commander of the 479th Operations Support Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. Two years later, Colonel Mastin would become Deputy Chief of Air Combat Command's Flight Operations Division at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, the position he holds today.

Devoted to his country, Colonel Mastin is also a devoted family man. Together with his wife Joni, Colonel Mastin has two beautiful children, daughter Ashley and son Travis.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous military career, his more than 4,200 flying hours, his esteemed military decorations, his sense of family and his service to the United States of America, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring Thunderbird Pilot and Dansville, New York native, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Mastin.

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